

Name _____

Date _____

Persian Empire



Read the paragraph for background information. Then use the map to answer the questions.

Persia was a quiet land of shepherds between the fertile crescent and India. A selfish and power-hungry king ruled the area. He dreamed his grandson would kill him and take over when he grew up, so he ordered the boy killed. The man who was to take the boy out and kill him could not do it. He secretly gave the boy to a shepherd who had no children of his own. The boy was named Cyrus and he grew up strong and well loved. One day when he was nearly grown, he went into town to sell some goods and the king saw him. He knew the boy was his grandson and confronted the man who was to have killed him. The man fled to the mountains, found Cyrus, and offered to help Cyrus get rid of the evil king. So the king's dream came true.

After coming to power, Cyrus conquered the lands east of him, eventually ruling most of the Middle East. He was considered a fair ruler. In a way, he succeeded in uniting Athens and Sparta. When he tried to make Greece part of his empire, the two cities united and fought back. Although it took 60 years, the Persians finally gave up and the Greeks remained free.

1. Name a few of the natural borders of the Persian Empire.

2. What does the black line from Sardis to Susa represent? _____
3. Look at the names on the map and think of the name of the empire. Which capital and region most likely corresponds to the original home of Persia?

4. What is the approximate distance from Susa to Persepolis? _____
5. Did the Persian Empire include the area of Mesopotamia? How did you know?

6. What are the approximate coordinates in latitude and longitude of Persepolis? _____
7. Which region is northeast of Aria? Directly south? Northwest?

8. Among other uses, the Royal Road conveyed messages through a system of relay runners. If a message left Persepolis and Sardis at the same time, the message from which city likely got to Arbela first?

9. Which body of water is at 45°N and 60°E? _____
10. Name some of the empires that Cyrus conquered. You may look at other maps to assist you.

